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NEWS
from the
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Office of Information,
Publications and Reports
Washington, D.C.
202

WEEK OF MARCH 29, 1982

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Week of March 29, 1982

NORWOOD SAYS SUSTAINED ECONOMIC RECOVERY
REQUIRES ATTENTION TO LONG-TERM PROBLEMS

DALLAS -- Commissioner of Labor Statistics Janet L. Norwood told national meeting of bankers that the quality and duration of the recovery from the current recession will depend on ability to do something about the nation's longer-term economic problems, including declining productivity and chronic unemployment in certain industries and population groups.

Addressing the American Bankers Association's National Installment Credit Conference here on perspective on the economy, Dr. Norwood said that substantial industry dislocations and demographic labor market problems which have long-term implications differentiate this recession from those of earlier decades.

"Several important industries and population groups began the current recession without having fully recouped the losses sustained during the previous recession," Norwood said in her prepared remarks.

"These continued difficulties suggest that the country is facing some long-term structural problems that will impact the kind of recovery the economy will experience," she continued.

Citing the auto industry as a prime example, Norwood said:

"The auto industry can be expected to increase its sales during a recovery, but it is unlikely that auto sales will ever regain the sales of the last decade. There will be fewer young people of driving age in the future than there were in the past, and the cost of operating cars has risen considerably since the oil embargo. Workers who have lost jobs in automobile factories will in many cases have to find work in other industries and, in some cases, in other geographic areas."

Norwood said that structural problems are also expected to persist among particular demographic groups, particularly minority workers.

"These disadvantaged workers will make up a larger proportion of the labor force in the future," she said.

Blacks accounted for 1 in every 10 new workers added to the labor force in the 1960's, 1 in every 7 in the 1970s and BLS projects blacks will represent 1 in every 5 workers in this country 10 years from now, Norwood said.

"If the large gap between the black-white unemployment rate is to be reduced in the future," she continued, "more than 1 in every 5 new jobs must go to a black worker."

Real growth, once it begins, will not solve all the economic problems, she declared, but the future can hold considerable promise if we recognize the difficulties we face.

"Measures to reduce dislocation issues and to alleviate structural problems can only be effective in a healthy and expanding economy, Norwood added.

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Week of March 29, 1982

'HAZARD COMMUNICATION' STANDARD TO PROTECT WORKERS PROPOSED BY OSHA

WASHINGTON -- More than 14 million manufacturing workers and their employers would be better informed about the potential hazards of chemicals in their workplace and therefore be better able to protect themselves against overexposures under a proposed "hazard communication" standard announced by the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

Assistant Secretary of Labor Thorne G. Auchter, who heads OSHA, said he is pleased that the proposal, a complete revision of the "labeling" standard that was proposed by the Carter administration in January 1981 and later withdrawn, retains the essential requirement that workers be alerted to the hazards of substances they work with, but accomplishes this goal in a far more efficient and cost-effective way.

"Many employers and employees today are not aware of the presence of hazardous chemicals in their workplaces," Auchter said. "Government data indicate there may be as many as 575,000 chemical products, including mixtures and compounds, in our workplaces with hundreds of new chemicals introduced annually. Thus, the importance of the proposed standard cannot be over-emphasized."

At the same time, he said, the current proposal would save billions of dollars both in initial costs and annual on-going costs compared to other alternatives that have been considered. (OSHA's office of regulatory analysis estimated initial costs of $581.75 million and annual costs of $227.92 million under the current proposal compared to $2.60 billion and $1.25 billion respectively under the Carter proposal.)

In addition to being significantly less costly than the Carter version, Auchter said the current proposal is more protective because it includes provisions for education and training of workers and the development and downstream transmission of material safety data sheets.

The proposed standard would require chemical manufacturers to assess the hazards of the chemicals they produce, and all employers in manufacturing industries to provide information to their employees about these hazards. Labels, placards, material data safety sheets, and information and training programs would be used for this purpose.

The proposed standard would cover hazardous chemicals in the workplace to which employees may be exposed under normal use or in a foreseeable emergency. A "hazardous chemical" would be any chemical which is combustible, a compressed gas, explosive, flammable, a health hazard, an organic peroxide, an oxidizer, pyrophoric, unstable (reactive) or water-reactive. Certain mixtures determined hazardous also would fall under the proposed rule.

Other highlights of the proposed standard include:

--Exemption of pipes and support systems from labeling requirements. This change, from the original labeling proposal, would save an estimated $1.73 billion or about two-thirds of the initial compliance costs and an estimated $889.5 million or 70 percent of annual costs.

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--Limitation of container labels to a hazard warning (e.g. flammable) and a chemical identifier. The identifier on the label would refer to a corresponding material safety data sheet. The material safety data sheet, instead of individual container labels, would be the source of more detailed information on the specific characteristics of the chemical to determine appropriate precautions. This limited labeling requirement would save about $395.94 million or about 69 percent of initial costs and about $281.07 million or 80 percent annual costs.

--Education and training provisions for informing employees about hazards, providing protective clothing and equipment, and instructing them of precautionary measures but leaving details and the format to be used up to the employers. The provisions would increase costs somewhat (about $124.87 million in initial costs and $133.61 in annual costs) but would substantially enhance the effectiveness of the standard.

--A "performance oriented" approach allowing compliance plans tailored to specific industries and work environments, as well as hazard evaluation procedures based on scientifically acceptable studies, thus limiting such studies to known hazards of a chemical. Estimates of initial costs for hazard evaluations under the January proposal varied widely from $248 million to $1 billion, depending on the amount of testing initiated to certify "non-hazardous" products. Initial costs under the new proposal are estimated at $230 million with annual costs at $18 million.

--Trade secret protection either through use of generic names or through confidentiality agreements with industrial customers.

--A significant reduction from the Carter proposal in documentation of hazard evaluation procedures as well as recordkeeping requirements, lowering initial costs from $31.35 million to $14.7 million, and annual costs from $4.69 million to $2.07 million.

--Extension of the compliance period from roughly two years to three years to allow more time for hazard evaluations, and a further extension for small business. The current proposed schedule would be one year for substances and two years for mixtures for larger chemical manufacturers (250 employees or more); 18 months and 30 months for medium-sized chemical manufacturers (between 25 and 250 employees) two years and three years for small chemical manufacturers (fewer than 25 employees) and 42 months for other manufacturers.

Public hearings on the proposal have been scheduled starting June 15 in Washington; details and other dates and locations will be announced later.

Notice of intention to appear at the hearings along with statements and documentary evidence should be submitted to: Tom Hall, Division of Consumer Affairs, Room N3635, Frances Perkins DOL Building, Washington, D.C. 20210 (phone (202) 523-8024).

Written comments should be submitted in quadruplicate to OSHA Docket Office, Docket H-022, Room S6212 at the above address.

Comments and notices of intention to appear at the public hearings must be received on or before May 18. Statements and documentary evidence for the hearings must be submitted by June 1.

The proposed standard on hazard communication is scheduled for publication in the Federal Register March 19, 1982.

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Week of March 29, 1982

FEDERAL AGENCY COMPLETES INVESTIGATION
OF COLORADO MINE DISASTER

WASHINGTON -- An intensive investigation into the April 15, 1981 explosion that killed 15 coal miners at Mid-Continent Resources, Inc.'s Dutch Creek No. 1 Mine, near Redstone, Colo. has been concluded by the U.S. Labor Department's Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA).

MSHA investigators have determined that the explosion occurred after an "outburst"--a sudden, violent release of coal and gas from the coalbed--created an explosive mixture of methane, coal dust and air in the atmosphere of the No. 1 entry in the mine's 102 Section. As a result, methane accumulated around an electrically powered continuous mining machine and entered the compartment housing its light controls. When an electrical arc ignited the gas that had accumulated inside the compartment, flames and burning material shot through a gap under its cover plate and triggered a powerful methane and dust explosion in the atmosphere of the No. 1 entry.

When the outburst released the methane, monitors automatically shut down all the electrical equipment in the area except the continuous miner's lights, which had to be de-energized manually. There was some evidence that the miners in the 102 Section were attempting to use ventilation equipment in order to dilute the explosive methane mixture at the time of the explosion. The investigators believe that throwing the light switch into the "off" position may have provided the arc that triggered the explosion.

The investigators concluded that the following conditions or practices contributed to the cause of the explosion:

-- The lighting system on the continuous mining machine was not installed in accordance with MSHA's requirements, in that the lights did not de-energize along with the other equipment on the machine when methane concentrations exceeded 2.0 percent.

-- The lighting system's control switch and the cover plate on its compartment were not installed by a qualified person or under the supervision of a qualified person, as prescribed by MSHA regulations.

-- The compartment had not been properly tested after the addition of the light switch, so that a gap remained under the cover that allowed gas to enter the compartment and flames to move outwards.

In the course of the investigation, MSHA issued 16 citations to Mid-Continent Resources, Inc. for violations discovered in the underground workings of the Dutch Creek No. 1. Four of these violations were determined to have directly contributed to the explosion.

Copies of the report may be reviewed at the MSHA offices in Denver and Glenwood Springs, Colo., and at the agency's headquarters in Arlington, Va.

# # #

Week of March 29, 1982

FEDERAL AGENCY AMENDS RULES
FOR UNDERGROUND MINING EQUIPMENT

WASHINGTON -- Revised rules governing the approval and certification of various types of underground mining equipment have been adopted by the U.S. Department of Labor's Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA).

MSHA's revisions affect requirements for telephone and signaling devices, electric cap lamps, and electrical components and headlights for mobile diesel-powered transportation equipment.

"Because of continuing technological developments, MSHA is always seeking ways to incorporate the best technology available in its regulations," said Ford B. Ford, MSHA's Assistant Secretary. "The purpose of amending the regulations governing this equipment is to assure that new, improved and safer devices are available for the protection of the miner."

MSHA's previous telephone and signaling rule only permitted the approval of devices that were powered exclusively by batteries. Adequate safeguards did not exist for powered signaling devices from direct mine power sources. Under the new amendment, MSHA can now approve telephone and signaling devices designed to operate from a mine power or lighting circuit as long as these systems are equipped with a standby power source to continue communications in the event of a power failure. This amendment also reflects MSHA's desire to promote safer and more modern communications equipment in mines, and provides manufacturers with flexibility necessary to design improved devices. Consistent with these objectives, MSHA has removed restrictions in the previous standards related to the design of the telephone and signaling devices.

Regulations on electric cap lamps used in underground mines did not allow MSHA to investigate or approve cap lamps with new design or construction features. The integrity of these devices is especially important in mines that may contain dangerous concentrations of ignitable methane. If the bulb glass of a lamp were accidentally broken, the heated filament of the bulb could ignite due to the explosive atmosphere in the mine. MSHA's revisions to these rules would remove this design restriction on the lamps and permit MSHA to investigate cap lamps which incorporate changes in technology so that modern, safe equipment can be used in underground mines.

Revised regulations on electrical components and headlights for mobile diesel-powered transportation equipment would allow improvements in the design of the equipment incorporating new technology. MSHA could then investigate equipment that uses electrical components or systems, for approval and certification. The revised rules do not impose any additional regulatory requirements or costs on mine operators and the increased flexibility of the new rules gives greater choices to mine operators when they acquire new and improved equipment.

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In furthering MSHA's cooperation with the mining community, these new rules are intended to encourage research and development; lessen the regulatory burden on the public by removing restrictions and guarantee that safer and more modern equipment will be available for the miner.

The revisions to the standards were published in the Federal Register on March 16, 1982.

# # #

Week of March 29, 1982

MSHA ANNOUNCES INJURY DATA FOR 1981

WASHINGTON -- Accidental deaths in the metal and nonmetal mining industry continued to decline last year while fatalities in coal mining increased, according to preliminary information announced by the Labor Department's Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA).

For the second straight year, the number of deaths in metal and nonmetal mining was the lowest ever reported. Last year 84 workers were killed at these operations, compared to 103 in 1980. Of the 84 deaths, 42 occurred at metal mines, 14 at nonmetal mines, 19 at stone mines and nine at sand and gravel operations.

Thirty-one of the deaths occurred in accidents at mines which are now exempted from MSHA's jurisdiction. Since Dec. 16, 1981, the agency has been prohibited from using funds to enforce its regulations at surface stone, clay, colloidal phosphate, and sand and gravel mining operations. This prohibition is a result of restrictions placed upon MSHA by the Congress when it passed the continuing resolution that currently provides funding for the agency.

Last year at metal and nonmetal mines, accidents with powered haulage vehicles resulted in the most deaths--27. Accidents with machinery, causing 18 fatalities, were the second leading cause, and explosives accidents, with eight deaths, were third.

In coal mining, fatalities rose to 155, an increase of 22 deaths over the previous year's total. The rate for fatal coal mining accidents was .07 per 200,000 hours worked.

Three coal mine disasters during the past year accounted for 36 of 155 deaths in 1981. Single explosions claimed the lives of 15 miners at the Dutch Creek No. 1 Mine at Redstone, Colo., on April 15; eight miners at the Adkins Coal Co.'s Mine No. 11 at Topmost, Ky., on Dec. 7; and 13 miners at the Grundy No. 21 Mine near Whitwell, Tenn., Dec. 8.

"These grim figures indicate a need for a renewed commitment to mine safety on the part of everyone--labor, management, and government," said Ford B. Ford, assistant secretary of labor for mine safety and health. "Reductions in mining injuries will only be possible if we all actively pursue the cooperation required."

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The types of coal mining accidents that were responsible for the most deaths last year were falls of the mine roof and ignitions or explosions of gas or dust. Accidents in these categories killed 37 miners each. The second leading cause of death in coal mining was accidents with powered haulage equipment, with 35 fatalities.

Both mining industries achieved considerable reductions in all injuries, with and without lost workdays, in the last calendar year.

The total for all injuries in 1981 at metal and nonmetal mining operations was 14,221, down from 17,468 in the previous year. The rate of injury also declined, from 6.46 per 200,000 employee-hours in 1980 to 5.58 last year.

The drop in injuries in the coal industry was even more substantial, where they declined 22 percent in 1981. The total decreased to 17,802 injuries from 22,723, and the rate declined from 10.03 per 200,000 employee-hours in 1980 to 8.65 last year.

"Although any injury is one too many, we at MSHA are heartened to see this reduction in injuries in the mining industries," said Ford. "This news, combined with the record low number of deaths in metal and nonmetal mining, should give mine operators and miners alike the inspiration they need to continue working together towards safer, healthier mines."

The annual totals on fatalities and injuries are drawn from reports mine operators are required to submit to MSHA. The information is still preliminary, and final statistics that will be available in the coming months may differ slightly from the preliminary totals.

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Week of March 29, 1982

STATE AND METROPOLITAN AREA UNEMPLOYMENT:
JANUARY 1982

WASHINGTON -- Unemployment rates increased in 41 states and the District of Columbia from January 1981 to January 1982, according to preliminary data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor. The number of states with over-the-year rate increases has risen steadily since mid-1981.

Twelve states reported over-the-year unemployment rate increases of 2.0 percentage points or more, as the national unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted) rose 1.2 points to 9.4 percent of the labor force. No state reported a rate decline as large as 1.0 point. (Data are not adjusted for seasonal variation.)

Six of the 12 states with the largest over-the-year unemployment rate increases were in the South (Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee, and South Carolina). Three North Central States (Indiana, Iowa, and Michigan), two Western States (Idaho and Washington), and Pennsylvania in the Northeast also had rate increases of 2.0 percentage points or more from January 1981 to January 1982.

Employment declines in these 12 states were widespread throughout the manufacturing sector, with durable goods generally the hardest hit. Over-the-year employment losses in construction and government continued in virtually all of the states with large unemployment rate increases.

Overall, 19 states had unemployment rate of 10 percent or more in January, compared with only six a year earlier. The areas of relatively high or low unemployment continued to be regionally concentrated. Fifteen of the 19 states with rates of 10 percent or more were in a nearly contiguous area extending from Iowa eastward to Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Pennsylvania and southward to the gulf coast States of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama.

The other four high unemployment states were in the Northwest portion of the nation (Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington). By contrast, five of the six low unemployment states (less than 6.0 percent unemployment) extended from Wyoming and Nebraska south to Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. Hawaii was the other state with a jobless rate below 6.0 percent in January. (See map.)

Michigan continued to have the highest jobless rate in the nation (16.0 percent), while Wyoming had the lowest (4.6 percent).

Metropolitan Areas

Among the 203 metropolitan areas for which January 1982 data were available, 68 had unemployment rates of at least 10 percent. The highest rates were reported in Dubuque, Iowa (23.0 percent), and Anderson, Indiana (20.5 percent), while the two areas with the lowest rates were Enid, Oklahoma, and Abilene, Texas (both at 3.7 percent).

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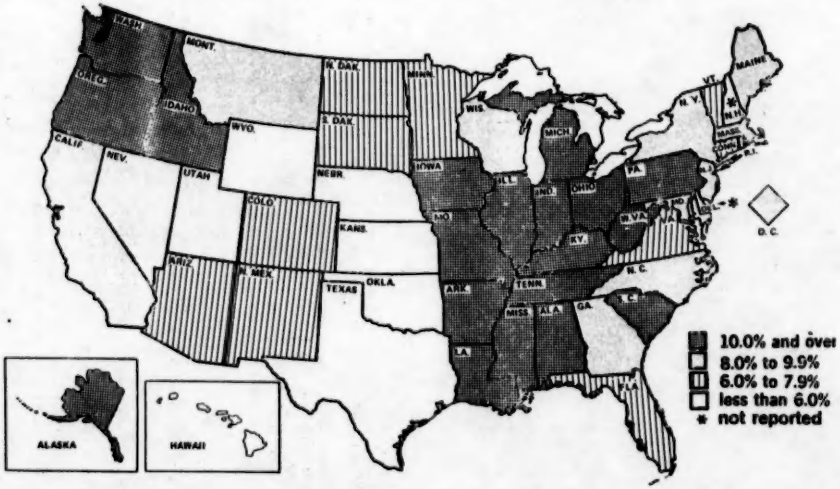
Unemployment Rates by State, January 1982



Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, March 1982

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Week of March 29, 1982

STATE UNEMPLOYMENT IN 1980 AND 1981

WASHINGTON -- Annual average unemployment rates were higher in 1981 than 1980 in most states, according to estimates released by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

For 1981, 17 states had unemployment rates substantially higher than the national average of 7.6 percent. These states were primarily concentrated in the industrialized North and South Central regions. Michigan continued to have the highest rate, with 12.3 percent of the labor force unemployed. Four other states (Alabama, Indiana, Oregon, and West Virginia) had rates of about 10.0 percent or more in 1981.

The lowest unemployment rates were recorded in the West North Central and West South Central farm belt states. Oklahoma, with 3.6 percent of the labor force unemployed, was the only state with a rate below 4.0 percent in 1981. Table 1 shows 1980 and 1981 population and labor force data for 50 States and the District of Columbia.

The annual average estimates were derived from the Current Population Survey, a sample survey of about 60,000 households conducted monthly for the BLS by the Bureau of the Census.

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Table 1. Employment status of the civilian noninstitutional population 16 years of age and over by State, 1980-81 annual averages.
(Numbers in thousands)

State	Population		Labor force		Employed		Unemployed		Unemployment rate		Error in rate for 1981 1/
	1980	1981	1980	1981	1980	1981	1980	1981	1980	1981	
Alabama	2,829	2,858	1,674	1,665	1,526	1,488	147	178	8.8	10.7	9.7 —11.7
Alaska	262	269	187	192	169	174	18	18	9.7	9.3	8.2 —10.4
Arizona	1,992	2,044	1,238	1,265	1,155	1,187	83	78	6.7	6.1	5.3 — 6.9
Arkansas	1,669	1,681	999	1,029	923	936	76	94	7.6	9.1	8.1 —10.1
California	17,683	18,021	11,581	11,781	10,791	10,908	790	872	6.8	7.4	7.1 — 7.7
Colorado	2,128	2,176	1,500	1,529	1,412	1,445	88	84	5.9	5.5	4.8 — 6.2
Connecticut	2,357	2,391	1,594	1,589	1,500	1,491	94	98	5.9	6.2	5.5 — 6.9
Delaware	442	447	285	288	263	265	22	23	7.7	7.9	7.1 — 8.7
District of Columbia	501	500	329	312	305	284	24	28	7.3	9.0	8.1 — 9.9
Florida	7,604	7,896	4,268	4,513	4,017	4,206	251	308	5.9	6.8	6.3 — 7.3
Georgia	3,922	4,006	2,544	2,596	2,381	2,430	163	165	6.4	6.4	5.7 — 7.1
Hawaii	662	673	439	449	417	425	21	24	4.9	5.4	4.7 — 6.1
Idaho	660	668	429	427	395	395	34	32	7.9	7.6	6.7 — 8.5
Illinois	8,456	8,503	5,539	5,577	5,082	5,103	458	474	8.3	8.5	8.0 — 9.0
Indiana	4,018	4,025	2,631	2,617	2,378	2,353	252	263	9.6	10.1	9.3 —10.9
Iowa	2,150	2,148	1,431	1,419	1,349	1,320	82	98	5.8	6.9	6.1 — 7.7
Kansas	1,740	1,751	1,185	1,188	1,132	1,138	53	50	4.5	4.2	3.5 — 4.9
Kentucky	2,651	2,665	1,663	1,662	1,530	1,522	133	140	8.0	8.4	7.4 — 9.4
Louisiana	2,982	3,047	1,789	1,857	1,668	1,700	121	156	6.7	8.4	7.6 — 9.2
Maine	826	835	507	509	468	472	39	37	7.8	7.2	6.3 — 8.1
Maryland	3,141	3,193	2,155	2,164	2,015	2,007	141	157	6.5	7.3	6.6 — 8.0
Massachusetts	4,387	4,438	2,876	2,961	2,714	2,773	162	188	5.6	6.4	5.9 — 6.9
Michigan	6,764	6,773	4,290	4,301	3,756	3,773	534	528	12.4	12.3	11.6 —13.0
Minnesota	3,005	3,029	2,108	2,143	1,982	2,024	125	118	5.9	5.5	4.8 — 6.2
Mississippi	1,769	1,782	1,060	1,052	981	964	80	88	7.5	8.3	7.4 — 9.2
Missouri	3,666	3,691	2,310	2,317	2,143	2,139	167	178	7.2	7.7	7.0 — 8.4
Montana	574	578	369	382	347	355	22	26	6.1	6.9	6.0 — 7.8
Nebraska	1,148	1,153	763	773	732	741	31	32	4.1	4.1	3.4 — 4.8
Nevada	604	633	430	463	403	430	27	33	6.2	7.1	6.2 — 8.0
New Hampshire	687	700	472	480	450	456	22	24	4.7	5.0	4.3 — 5.7
New Jersey	5,579	5,638	3,581	3,578	3,322	3,316	259	262	7.2	7.3	6.8 — 7.8
New Mexico	919	938	560	575	518	533	42	42	7.5	7.3	6.4 — 8.2
New York	13,305	13,397	7,973	8,016	7,377	7,404	597	612	7.5	7.6	7.2 — 8.0
North Carolina	4,294	4,366	2,856	2,916	2,669	2,728	187	188	6.6	6.4	5.9 — 7.1
North Dakota	467	470	303	309	288	294	15	16	5.0	5.0	4.1 — 5.9
Ohio	7,989	8,011	5,086	5,085	4,660	4,595	426	490	8.4	9.6	9.1 —10.1
Oklahoma	2,221	2,266	1,369	1,442	1,303	1,391	66	52	4.8	3.6	3.0 — 4.2
Oregon	1,972	1,985	1,286	1,330	1,188	1,199	107	131	8.3	9.9	9.0 —10.8
Pennsylvania	9,048	9,084	5,434	5,476	5,009	5,018	425	458	7.8	8.4	7.9 — 8.9
Rhode Island	723	730	473	478	439	442	34	36	7.2	7.6	6.8 — 8.4
South Carolina	2,219	2,253	1,387	1,417	1,292	1,298	96	119	6.9	8.4	7.5 — 9.3
South Dakota	494	492	334	333	317	316	16	17	4.9	5.1	4.3 — 5.9
Tennessee	3,402	3,432	2,082	2,110	1,930	1,919	152	192	7.3	9.1	8.2 —10.0
Texas	10,230	10,554	6,742	7,075	6,390	6,701	352	373	5.2	5.3	4.9 — 5.7
Utah	964	988	635	646	595	603	40	43	6.3	6.7	5.7 — 7.7
Vermont	381	385	253	260	237	245	16	15	6.4	5.7	5.0 — 6.4
Virginia	3,887	3,951	2,560	2,600	2,432	2,442	128	158	5.0	6.1	5.2 — 7.0
Washington	3,053	3,108	1,983	1,987	1,826	1,798	156	189	7.9	9.5	8.5 —10.5
West Virginia	1,446	1,453	789	786	715	702	74	84	9.4	10.7	9.7 —11.7
Wisconsin	3,475	3,515	2,340	2,371	2,172	2,186	167	185	7.2	7.8	6.9 — 8.7
Wyoming	336	347	235	250	226	240	9	10	4.0	4.1	3.4 — 4.8

1/ Error range are shown at the 90-percent confidence level.

Note: These estimates incorporate population counts derived from the 1980 decennial census. A detailed discussion of these revisions appeared in the February 1982 issue of Employment and Earnings.

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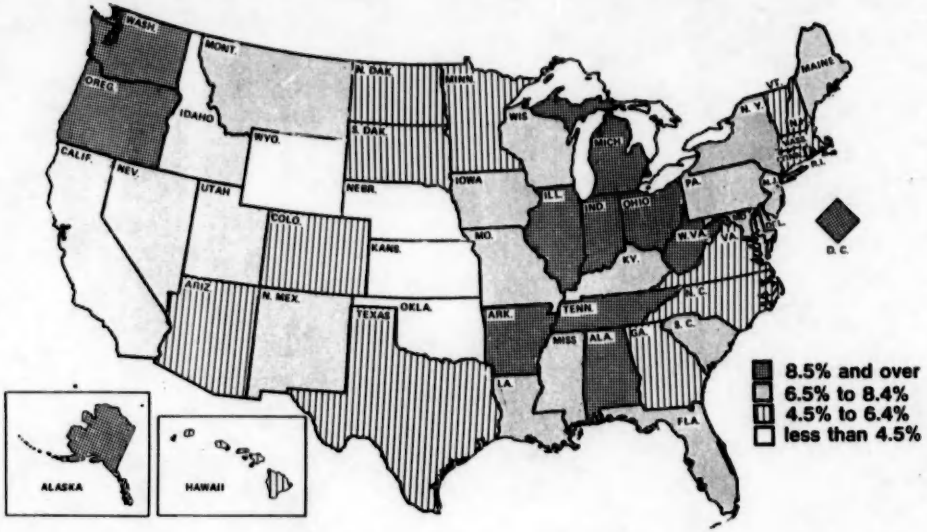
Unemployment Rates by State, 1981* Annual Average



Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, March 1982

* These estimates incorporate population counts from the 1980 Decennial Census

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Week of March 29, 1982

FILLERS FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

The Labor-Management Services Administration administers the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. LMSA is a part of the U.S. Department of Labor.

# # #

Issues involving international, economic and trade policies that affect American workers are handled by the Bureau of International Labor Affairs of the U.S. Labor Department.

# # #

The Bureau of International Labor Affairs helps represent the U.S. in multilateral and bilateral trade negotiations.

# # #

The Labor Department's Bureau of International Labor Affairs arranges trade union exchange and other programs for foreign visitors to the U.S.

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